



WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

1969

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

In Office: 1970.

Chairman of the Council - Councillor Mrs.C.J. Grundon.

Chairman of the Public Health
and Housing Committee: - Councillor Mrs. M.E. Brown.

Clerk - M.G.P. Young, Solicitor.

Treasurer - M. Landon, F.I.M.T.A.

Engineer and Surveyor
B.E. Hardy, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E.

Medical Officer of Health
M.S. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer, of Health
J.L. Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Major General, Retired)

Chief Public Health Inspector
F.W.I. Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This annual report for 1969 covers a year in which the final preparations were made to tackle the Gorrell Drainage Scheme. The Council was asked to establish a Committee of Officers representing the local authority, the oyster fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food to watch over the state of the sea as the Gorrell and Long Sea Outfall schemes develop. This form of pollution investigation committee may well form a pattern for the future, here and elsewhere. It must be recognised that the special nature of the present investigations which seek to determine present conditions and to identify any change resulting from the Gorrell Scheme in order that the effects of the Long Sea Outfall may be monitored and pollution avoided, are a costly exercise and much more intense than could be carried out as normal routine procedure. Nevertheless, it has shown the great capacity of local authority Officers for sectional co-operation and frank exchange of views. In this and other matters, I should like to thank the Chief Public Health Inspector, the Engineer and Surveyor and the other Chief Officers for their friendly co-operation.

This Annual Report combines with it the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the greater part of it deals with services with which he is directly concerned.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL SITUATION

There was a balanced growth of housing and population representing just over 2%.

Some progress occurred in the planning of the Health Centre. In other respects, the comments made in the previous Annual Report apply, that there is a gradual growth of light industry and that the Harbour has been improved and developed as an undertaking to encourage trade and commerce.

The voluntary work for the Welfare of the elderly, centred on the Rest Centre and reaching out through locality co-ordination, is well supported and had the added help of a Council Chairman particularly interested in this field of service.

VITAL STATISTICS

The uncorrected birth rate was 12.6 per 1000 population, adjusted for population make-up to 19.5, thus comparing favourably with the national rate of 16.3. The percentage of births occurring outside marriage was 5%.

The death rate, before adjustment, was 17.1 per 1000, adjusted to 10.3 and comparing favourably to the national rate of 11.9.

Vital statistics in detail (1969):-

Population: Mid 1969: 23,780. Dwellings: 10,276

Live Births = 300 Male = 129 Female = 171
Illegitimate = 16

Deaths = 406 Male = 199 Female = 207

	England & Wales
Stillbirths = 4 Stillbirths per 1000 total births = 13	13.0
Infant Deaths: Under 1 year = 3 Under 1 week = 1	
Birth Rate (unadjusted) 12.6 (adjusted) 19.5	16.3
Percentage Illegitimate: 5%	8.0
Infant Mortality Rate = 10	18.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate = 16	23.0
Death Rate (unadjusted) 17.1 (adjusted) 10.3	11.9
Deaths from Cancer of Lung and Bronchus = 21 Male = 18 Female = 3	
" " " " " " " " = 6 Male = 6 Female = Nil	
(under 65 years of age)	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (See Appendix)

Changes were made during the year in the statutory requirements on Notification of Infectious Diseases. Infective Jaundice became notifiable in the latter part of the year and six cases were known to have occurred. There was a well scattered distribution in East Kent in the Autumn of the year.

Despite our hopes that Measles Vaccination would suppress the incidence of the disease, public enthusiasm was discouraged by publicity given to the effects of one particular strain of vaccine immediately withdrawn and replaced by a harmless, but equally protective strain. Public confidence had not recovered by the end of the year, but measles had quickly returned to the attack and incidence of infection rose again to the pre-vaccination level as will be seen by the table in the Appendix to the report.

A family outbreak of gastro enteritic illness was of special note. The admission to hospital of a middle aged man, who had collapsed with nausea, diarrhoea, cramp, and what were described as choleric stools, led to the identification of a family outbreak. The patient recovered quickly on re-hydration and no pathogens were isolated from the stool. The patient's married son with wife and child, arrived at Southampton by sea from Australia on 10th August. There was extreme heat and luggage delays and first the wife developed diarrhoea and bellyache on 11th August, followed by husband and child on the 12th. The parents recovered quickly but the two year old child remained loose for the next fortnight or more. Between 25th and 27th August, the husband's parents and seventeen year old brother, all in the same household, developed bellyache and diarrhoea, and the husband's father, first mentioned, was admitted to hospital suffering the effects of dehydration.

Four other members of the household ranging in age from 4 to 18 years, a married daughter and her baby, who was minded daily in the house, remained unaffected.

Stool specimens from household cases and contacts produced no recognised pathogens and the investigation was inconclusive, although the history suggested that the two year old toddler was the link between her parents illness and the involvement of the grandparents.

A Mass Radiography Unit Survey of the town, of industry and of the Secondary School staff was carried out by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board Units from Oakwood. There was a 20% increase in attendance compared with the last visit and the total attending represented 12% of the population.

- 4 -
CAUSES OF ALL DEATHS

C A U S E	1969	AGES: 1 - 65		1968
		M	F	
Syphilis and its sequelae.	1	1	-	-
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	1	-	-	-
" " Oesophagus	4	-	2	-
" " Stomach	8	1	1	7
" " Intestine	7	1	2	-
" " Lungs, Bronchus	21	6	-	19
" " Breast	10	-	5	9
" " Uterus	1	-	-	1
" " Prostate	3	-	-	-
Leukaemia	3	-	1	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	23	3	3	39
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	4	-	1	4
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	-	-	-	1
Mental Disorders	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	2	-	-	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases	1	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	13	2	-	36
Ischaemic Heart Disease	101	12	5	92
Other Forms of Heart Disease	32	2	-	-
Cerebrovascular Disease	70	5	5	51
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	19	-	2	30
Influenza	1	-	-	4
Pneumonia	16	-	-	24
Bronchitis and Emphysema	26	4	1	16
Asthma	1	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	2	-	3
Peptic Ulcer	3	-	-	6
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	1	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	-	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	-	1	5
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	4	-	1	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-	-	2
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	-	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	2	1	-
All Other Accidents	5	1	1	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	-	-	1
All other external causes	-	-	-	2
<u>TOTAL:</u>	406			378
Male :	199	45		173
Female :	207		34	205

WATER SUPPLY

The Mid Kent Water Company supplies the whole area of the Urban District.

The quality of the water supply was satisfactory and a total length of 2,919 yards of new water mains was laid.

Dwellings supplied from public water mains	10,263
Dwellings not so supplied	13
Total dwellings	10,276
Population	23,780

WATER SAMPLING TABLE

		Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
		Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory Water Undertakings	Raw	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Treated	4	4	-	4	4	-
Other private sources	Raw	2	2	-	2	2	-
	Treated	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total: 6 water samples for bacteriological examination.
6 water samples for chemical examination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Whitstable problem was summarised in the 1968 Annual Report. The only point to add is already mentioned in the covering letter that the Committee of Officers to carry out the biological assay of the sea during the present developments is now functioning, and the gathering mass of observations will, in the course of time, show not only how the sea varies with the seasons, but the directions from which pollution comes to the Bay.

The work on the Gorrell Drainage Backwater to convert it into a controlled tank with a useful surface and all the while retain the surface water discharge to the Harbour until the new outlet and its

(contd.,)

SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE (contd.)

storm overflow system of pumps is installed, has not only impressed by its ingenuity, but has presented a feature of great domestic interest as the work has gone forward.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects ..	370
Number of re-inspections made	282
Houses in which defects were remedied after informal action ..	38
Houses in which defects were remedied after formal action	2
Number of houses demolished	1
Number of houses closed	-

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were encountered during the year.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No problems arose which necessitated the making of Management Orders. Such Orders may be made when premises are in an unsatisfactory state in consequence of failure to ensure proper standards of management relating to ventilation.

Improvement and Conversion of Houses

The Council's Surveyor issued 31 Standard and 3 Discretionary Grants, total cost involved being £6,838.

Rent Act, 1967

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

New Houses - 1969

Total number of houses erected in 1969	210
by Local Authority	-
by other persons	210

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There were 22 licensed sites permitting the stationing of 1952 caravans and 239 chalets. The approximate acreage involved is 95 acres. Licence conditions are based upon standards recommended by the Ministry. With the exception of one caravan, such dwellings are only to be occupied during the period - 1st March to 31st October in any year.

(Contd.)

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960 (Contd.)

161 visits were made when it was found that conditions were generally complied with and that a satisfactory standard was being maintained.

The collection of refuse from these sites presents a problem which is overcome to great extent by the fact that several of the camps proprietors themselves arrange transport of refuse to the disposal tip.

No further progress was made in the provision of sites for gipsies and other travellers during the year following legislation whereby County Councils were required to provide adequate accommodation for gipsies resorting to their area. However, a commencement date has now been fixed which may speed up proposals.

No sites have been licenced for the use of tents, but the usual sporadic camping occurred within the 'free periods' allowed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no recognized offensive trades in the town.

FOOD

Food premises throughout the district have all received a general inspection during the year, general conditions were found to be quite satisfactory. Gradual improvement continues to be maintained with regard to food premises as a whole. New premises being opened, continue to show ever improving standards in layout, facilities and equipment.

No. of Premises by Category	Premises fitted to comply with Reg.16	Premises to which Reg.19 applies	Premises fitted to comply with Reg.19
Butchers (20)	20	20	20
Fishmongers (13)	13	13	13
Cafes, etc. (74)	74	74	74
Cake Shops (10)	10	10	10
Confectioners (30)	30	-	-
Greengrocers (15)	15	15	15
Grocers (69)	69	49	49
Off Licences (12)	12	-	-
Licenced Premises (47)	47	47	47
Others (14)	14	4	4
304	304	232	232

- 8 -
 FACTORIES ACT, 1961
 PART I

1. - INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of:		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	7	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities.	90	176	5	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	12	-	-
TOTAL:	97	195	6	-

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found:				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector. (4) (5)		
Want of cleanliness S.1	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding S.2.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature S.3	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation. S.4	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. S.7					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	7	6	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

Notification was received of one outworker, a maker of wearing apparel. (Sect. 133(1)(c)).

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One firm is registered for the use of such materials in upholstery etc.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are licenced and inspected on an annual basis and are subject to standards recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Persons collecting waste food are required to utilise approved boiling or sterilization plant. Three licences were currently in force.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Six scrap metal dealers are registered under the Act for the purpose of carrying on business within the urban area.

RODENT CONTROL

The General Assistant deals with complaints and carries out surveys. Treatment is based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

A total of 216 properties were found to be infested which were successfully treated.

The sewerage systems were treated with poison and whilst the degree of infestation were relatively light, regular attention is necessary to prevent a build up with attendant increase in surface infestations.

The Council is a member of the Rabbit Clearance Society whose trained operators carry out surveys of Council owned land.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service is virtually a kerbside one, its only virtue being that of low cost. Three compression type vehicles are utilised, manned by three drivers and eight loaders with an additional vehicle for stand-by duties. The collectors maintained a high standard of productivity with attendant advantage to themselves and to the Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (Contd.)

Periodic studies are made by the Work Study Section which facilitates re-organisation when it is called for.

Refuse continues to grow less in density but increases in volume owing to the ever increasing use of non-returnable containers and packaging.

Refuse is disposed of at the Yorkletts tip, consolidation being carried out by a Track Marshall Bulldozer. A major problem is the disposal of industrial refuse, much of which does not lend itself to consolidation.

Abandoned cars present a difficulty, in that their salvageable value seldom offsets the labour costs in their removal. However, the installation of private car crushing plant in the Richborough area may soon resolve this problem, as more frequent removals are now being carried out.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The number of cesspools at the end of the year was 315. The number is now fairly static following an appreciable reduction after an extension of the foul sewers in the Seasalter area.

227 hours were spent in carrying out excess emptyings which produced an income of £ 329. 3. 0d.

A total of 1575 emptyings were carried out, properties being allowed six free emptyings a year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street cleansing is carried out by seven manual sweepers, organised on a beat basis supplemented by a mechanical suction sweeper and driver. There has been no alteration in personnel since 1965, when the then 10 manual sweepers were reduced to seven on the introduction of the mechanical sweeper. Newly constructed roads and estates since that time has tended to dilute the service.

Consideration is currently being given to introducing further mechanisation to contain and improve the service.

Litter collections are carried out during the summer months by three temporary collectors on miscellaneous land and beaches extending from Marine Crescent to Seasalter.

PUBLIC BATHS

The public baths are situated at the Horsebridge. The total number of baths taken during the year being 4,668 as compared with the previous year's figure of 4,537.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are 14 Public Conveniences which are situated throughout the district, the cleaning of which is carried out by two full time cleaners with temporary additional help during the summer period.

In view of the cost of converting or renewing coin locks because of the impending change to decimal currency and the cost of repairs and renewals due to vandalism, it was resolved by the Council that the use of the Public Conveniences throughout the Urban District be free of charge from the 1st November, 1970.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

28 premises were licenced for the storage of 103,900 gallons of petrol in underground tanks and 10 premises licenced for the storage of 3,455 gallons of petroleum mixture.

Licences are issued on an annual basis which are subject to conditions based upon a Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licencing Conditions issued by the Home Office. Fees on a sliding scale are payable, total amount of £150 being received for the year.

Liaison is maintained with the Kent Fire Brigade and joint inspections were made with the Fire Prevention Officer.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

34 visits were made appertaining to noise emission, mainly as a result of complaints received. In no instance were the noise levels considered to be a statutory nuisance within the meaning of the Act, nevertheless, improvements were effected to reduce levels, it being found that persons are generally willing to co-operate whenever it is possible to do so.

The Ministry of Public Building and Works have issued a useful leaflet explaining how to reduce noise on building sites by "silencing" noisy tools and plant, by screening, and by properly planning the building development. Copies of the leaflet were distributed to all building contractors and public utilities in the area.

The most effective method of control is at the planning stage of new premises and extensions to existing premises when it can be ensured this design, creation and installation of machinery is such that new levels will not be excessive.

It is found that the installation of refrigerated equipment can give rise to complaint, the units being externally sited and intermittent in operation. The noise levels are generally not excessive, but the continued operation during the night time can prove disturbing.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT

Included in this Act is the requirement that Councils must provide places where refuse, other than trade refuse, may be deposited at all reasonable times free of charge by their residents.

A compound adjoining the entrance to Yorkletts tip has been provided for this purpose which remains open during the weekends. It has proved most popular, but is often misused by the dumping of commercial refuse. It is serving a very useful need and has undoubtedly lessened the indiscriminate dumping throughout the area. Despite the heavy penalties that may be incurred by dumping at other than the official centres, there are several unauthorised areas where periodic collections are carried out as far as the Departments resources permit. In one particular week, 25 van loads were removed from the Thornden Wood area alone.

Notices drawing the public's attention to the penalty provisions under the Act are posted at strategic points.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into force in 1964 and there are 237 premises registered with the Council, comprising 60 offices, 148 retail shops, 4 wholesale shops, 23 catering establishments and 2 fuel storage depots, employing a total of 428 males and 692 females.

All premises registered in accordance with the Act have received a general inspection. 41 general inspections were carried out in 1969. A total number of 118 visits were made to registered premises in connection with the administration of the Act.

SECTION 47 - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

It was not found necessary to act under these powers during 1969.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS:

Details of inspections made are as follows:

Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	..	..	..	33
Milk Regulations .. .. .	..	..	..	15
Other Food Shops .. .. .	..	..	..	235
Cafes, Restaurants and Licensed Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	146
Food Preparation .. .. .	..	..	..	51
Unsound Food .. .. .	..	..	..	62
Noise .. .. .	..	..	..	34
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A.) 1st Visit .. .. .	..	..	..	248
Dewllinghouses (Housing Act) .. .. .	..	..	..	122
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	20
Insect Pests .. .. .	..	..	..	69
Camping Sites .. .. .	..	..	..	168
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations .. .. .	..	..	..	130
Drainage .. .. .	..	..	..	474
Keeping of Animals .. .. .	..	..	..	14
Air Pollution .. .. .	..	..	..	79
Rodent Control .. .. .	..	..	..	216
Heating Appliances .. .. .	..	..	..	3
Sea and Water Pollution .. .. .	..	..	..	65
Port Health .. .. .	..	..	..	172
Petroleum .. .. .	..	..	..	70
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	58
Public Conveniences .. .. .	..	..	..	286
Factories Act .. .. .	..	..	..	195
Water Supplies .. .. .	..	..	..	26
Public Cleansing .. .. .	..	..	..	132
Refuse Collection and Disposal .. .. .	..	..	..	349
Offices and Shops.. .. .	..	..	..	159
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	279
Revisits .. .. .	..	..	..	282

PORT HEALTH INSPECTIONS

1969 saw the second year of operation of the West Quay by Westland Shipping Limited. Their vessels, Westland Producer and Westland Trader, arrive regularly throughout the week from Vlaardingen to discharge containerised cargoes of fruit and vegetables, most of which is destined for chain stores and supermarkets. All cargoes examined have been fresh and of good quality. The quay is also used by foreign vessels discharging cargoes of potatoes, onions and melons, which are then distributed by Westland Limited. Small quantities of general cargoes are also regularly exported.

On the east quay, imports of offals, poultry, canned meat and dairy products and general cargo arrived every week, firstly in the M.V. Resurgence and in the second half of the year, M.V. Dangelde. M.V. Dangelde, which is a new vessel, carries palletised cargo, which is discharged directly on to the quay by means of fork lift trucks carried permanently in the vessel. This method of working enables a quick turnover of the vessel. Agricultural machinery, electrical goods and general cargo are in turn exported.

Other vessels using the harbour are concerned with the discharge of cargoes of stone, sand, maize and wheat.

Inspections are made from time to time of all harbour property for evidence of rodent infestation which is dealt with as the need arises.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS

Two further tanks were installed for the purification of oysters during the year which received the Ministry's approval. It is the responsibility of the Department to undertake periodic inspections and samples of the oysters.

51 Batches of oysters were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, the results of which denoted that all tanks were operating efficiently.

- 15 -
APPENDIX

- Infectious Diseases -

	<u>Quarters of Year</u>				<u>By Age Groups</u>					<u>TOTAL</u>	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
Measles	1	62	59	-	59	62	1	-	-	8	122
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	1	4	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	-	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<u>TUBERCULOSIS:</u>	<u>BY AGE GROUPS</u>				<u>TOTAL</u>	
	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	1968	1969.
<u>Respiratory:</u>						
Male:	1	1	2	1	1	5
Female	-	-	-	-	3	-
<u>Other Forms:</u>						
Male:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on T.B. Register - 31st December, 1969
(1968 figures in parenthesis)

Respiratory:	Male	31 (29)	Female	15 (14)
Other Forms:	Male	3 (3)	Female	11 (10)

APPENDIX (CONTINUED)

IMMUNISATION: (Figures supplied by the County M.O.H.)

Against Smallpox: Primary Vaccination = 164 (244 in 1968)
 Revaccination (School age under 8 years) = 8
 (Births 1968 = 334)
 (Primary vaccination is recommended at age 1 year).

Against Diphtheria: Triple = Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus
 immunisation.

Dip/tet= Diphtheria and Tetanus immunisation.

		to age 5	5 to age 15	TOTAL	(1968)
Primary	Triple	73	1	74	(304)
	Dip/Tet	1	2	3	
Booster	Triple	68	21	89	(610)
	Dip/Tet	211	254	465	
<u>Against Poliomyelitis:</u>					
Complete Course		185	-	185	(374)
Reinforcing Doses		19	318	337	(318)
<u>Against Tetanus:</u>					
Primary		-	18	18	(10)
Reinforcing		2	18	20	(18)
<u>Against Measles:</u>					
Primary		219	59	278	(362)
Reinforcing		-	-	-	-

(Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis protection
 is recommended to begin between 3 - 6 months of age.)

